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SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" Sir, on what previous occasions were Secretaries to Government sent out for purposes of this kind?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, I should like to have notice. But for the information of the hon. Member, I may tell him that it has always been the practice of Government that Government Orders are always conveyed to the parties by the Secretaries to Government."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the established convention of confining the functions of Secretaries to Government within the four walls of the Secretariat is being followed?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" No violation of that convention has taken place, Sir. Perhaps the hon. Member is not aware of the practice."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" Is it not advisable that the Hon. Ministers themselves attend to matters of this kind, Sir?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" By restricting themselves within the four walls of the Secretariat!" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, it does not seem to be a question addressed to a particular Minister. It seems that the hon. Member is expressing his own personal opinion."

Clemency shown to Pichai Ammal of Tirunelveli.

* 143 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government exercised their powers of clemency in the case of one Pichai Ammal convicted under section 302, I.P.C., by the Sessions Judge, Tirunelveli, and, if so, the grounds therefor?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" No. The Government are awaiting the result of the appeal which the prisoner is reported to have filed."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" May I know Sir, what are the charges in this case?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, in this case the woman was charged with having murdered her three children and then attempting to commit suicide herself."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Was it not mentioned in the judgment of the Sessions Judge that the reason which induced the woman to attempt to commit suicide was acute poverty?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" That was the plea that was put forward by the woman in her appeal, that owing to starvation she found it impossible to maintain her children, because her husband deserted her and therefore she put to death her children and wanted to commit suicide."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Are the Government quite sure that she is going to appeal? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" She has already appealed, Sir."

Registration of births and deaths.

* 144 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether registration of births and deaths is compulsory;

(b) how many cases of unregistered births and deaths were detected during the last five years (yearwar);

(c) the reasons for defective registration; and

(d) the steps taken to tighten up the procedure for registration?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The number of unregistered births and deaths detected during the years 1943 to 1947 were as follows :—

Year.	Number of unregistered births detected.	Number of unregistered deaths detected.
1943	34,512	14,515
1944	25,742	15,315
1945	25,054	12,634
1946	22,629	7,108
1947	42,895	10,859

" (c) Failure on the part of the public who are responsible for reporting births and deaths to report all births and deaths without omissions.

" (d) The officers of the Revenue and Public Health Departments, during their tours, scrutinize birth and death registers, detect the unregistered births and deaths and cause the same to be registered, as part of their routine duties."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, what is the reason for the great increase in the number of unregistered births, as observed from the figures of 25,000 to 42,000 from the year 1943 to 1947? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is due to the failure on the part of the people to report. Registration work is done by the village headmen and the village headmen, as we all know, are saddled with many duties at present."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" How are the officers able to detect these omissions, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" When they go to the villages, they are able to detect many cases which are not registered."